

THE SCROLL

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O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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High test scores verification of student skill

Ellen Nelson
Editor-in-Chief

O'Gorman High School has always maintained an ACT score higher than the national average. The class of 2011 scored an average of 26, well above the state and national averages.

"We're very proud of our high ACT score because what it does is it validates what we're teaching," said assistant principal Joan Mahoney. "When you have that high of an ACT score it's difficult for people to argue with the fact that those students are getting quality coursework."

Another reason the school welcomes high test scores is because it is evidence to the students' abilities.

"We love to brag about them, but the students win," said Mahoney. It means the most to the students because it enables them to get into the colleges they want as well as scholarships and financial aid that might need.

"For the individual student, it provides them opportunity," said guidance counselor Art Hagg. "They can go to college with the confidence that they are well pre-

	2011 ACT Test Score Comparison		
	OGHS	State	Nation
English	26.8	21	20.6
Reading	26.1	22	21.3
Math	25.3	21.8	21.1
Science	25.2	22.1	20.9
Composite	26	21.8	21.1

pared."

This is especially important for students seeking admittance for a higher education.

"Colleges place a lot of stock in ACT scores because it's a constant. Everybody takes the same ACT, so it's a good way to differentiate students' ability a little bit more reliable than GPAs."

There are several factors that go into prominent test scores, such as the rigorous curriculum that O'Gorman offers, diligent students, and the preparation students make before testing.

"The best way to prepare for the ACT is rigorous college courses," said Mahoney. "Our students take those."

According to the school's records, high test scores are not out of the ordinary for the students at O'Gorman. "We've always

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ELLEN NELSON / KNIGHT SCROLL

Mr. Ed Whiting and his students laugh while he passes back tests in AP Psychology. Whiting graduated from O'Gorman in 1998 and has been working at O'Gorman for more than five years.

Whiting manages to balance family, teaching, construction

Veronica Fritsch
Faith Co-Editor

Teacher, coach, father, business owner. Mr. Ed Whiting can claim each of these titles as part of his busy and family filled life. Although most students only see him in the classroom, Whiting has plenty of other endeavors.

Family is at the center of Whiting's life. Both he and his wife Jen came from large fami-

lies with many siblings. The Whitings have four children. "It was a natural fit for us to have a large family. We had our first child one year after being married and have added three more to the bunch," said Whiting.

Balancing school, a large family, coaching, and a construction company requires quite a support system. "It's hard to lay out a script for how it works, but it just does," said

Whiting. "I can't imagine how it would work without the understanding and support of all the people around me."

Whiting's summers are also busy. Construction takes the place of teaching for Mr. BJ Keppen and Whiting, who are fully licensed contractors and owners of Impact Builders.

There are a variety of projects they work on in the summers

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SD legislature session discusses education

Ellen Nelson
Editor-in-Chief

Education has been a hot topic in South Dakota's state legislature over the last few years. In 2011, Governor Dennis Daugaard introduced a bill to administer cuts across the state, including cuts to education. In his 2012 State of the State address, Daugaard announced his plans for education in the coming year.

Daugaard proposed bonuses for middle and high school math and science teachers as high as \$3,500. This suggestion is to attract more math and science teachers to South Dakota "to drive student achievements," Daugaard said in a press release.

House Bill 1234, also known as the Education Reform Bill, was amended by the House of Representatives.

Instead of an annual bonus, new math and science teachers in the public school system of South Dakota can qualify for \$8,000 annual bonuses for the first five years of teaching.

"Research has shown, conclusively, that the most important factor on a student's achievement is the teacher," said

Daugaard. "If we wish to increase our students' achievements in math and science, we need to provide incentives for more great teachers in those areas."

According to Daugaard's office, House Majority Leader David Lust said that Legislators have responded to feedback from educators while still focusing on student success.

In her comments on the House floor, Representative Susy Blake from District 13 said that the bonuses in House Bill 1234 are not the right approach. "If we give this now it'll be a pay cut five years from now and then those teachers will leave the field," Blake said.

Another concern over this proposed education bill facing South Dakota's state legislature is that it will phase out continuing contracts known as tenure.

The reworked HB 1234 does provide flexibility for the public school system. As of now the schools would have three options: to participate in the proposed program, completely opt-out, or to create

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

The 2012 South Dakota State Legislature session opened on the Jan. 11, 2012 with Gov. Dennis Daugaard's State of the State Address.

Economy causes enrollment to fluctuate

Miranda Masek
Opinion Editor

After the economic hardships of the past few years, the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools are gaining students across grade levels.

"It's that a job status may change or a multitude of things happen and families look at their budget and ask if they can afford it," said O'Gorman High School principal Mr. Kyle Groos.

"Economy plays an important factor in our enrollment throughout the system," said Mr. Wade Charron, principal at O'Gorman Junior High School. "We do everything that we can to keep tuition rates down and

See **ENROLLMENT** page 2

Local cheerleaders win “Got Milk?”

Jake Shreck
Entertainment Co-Editor

The Sioux Falls competitive cheerleading squad Dakota Spirit Magnum is in the national spotlight after winning the nationwide “got milk?” Be Strong Challenge.

When the Be Strong Challenge began, 120 teams from around the United States entered a creative video showcasing their cheerleading talent and how chocolate milk plays an important role in their lives, in and out of the gym.

The heads at “got milk?” reviewed each of the videos, and narrowed the number down to 20 finalists.

Magnum made sure to let everyone know where they were from in their video, as it included a clip of the team performing in front of the giant cow that sits in front of the Dean Foods milk bottling plant on Russell Street in north Sioux Falls.

The videos of the finalists were posted online to the American Cheerleader Web site for the public to vote on. The cheerleaders had to

spread the word about the competition in order to win.

The cheerleaders used social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook, in addition to traditional word of mouth, to get the word out about the vote.

When the voting ended in December, it was announced in January that the South Dakota cheer team had won.

Magnum won a photo shoot for a “got milk?” ad, which will appear in the May/June issue of *American Cheerleader Magazine*, in addition to \$5,000 for the team.

“I’m very proud of all the effort our girls put forth to produce and promote this video,” said Magnum coach Missy Ragon. “They had to compete head to head with cheerleading squads from all across the nation.”

The Magnum is planning to donate part of their \$5,000 prize to a local charity, and will use the rest for their trip to the UCA Nationals in Florida later this year.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dakota Spirit Magnum cheerleading team competes at Jamfest Super Nationals in January. The team went on to win third place. The Dakota Spirit team is now preparing to compete in March at UCA Nationals in Florida.

SCORES Continued from page 1

performed well above the national and state average,” said Hagg.

The school has always had high ACT scores and these scores continued to climb when O’Gorman began offering prep classes in 1994. However, this is not the only factor.

A few years ago, the ACT placed O’Gorman in the top 10 percent of schools across the nation for the rigor of the school’s coursework.

“It’s a testament to our academics and it’s

a testament to what’s going on in the classroom every day,” said Mahoney.

“It sends a message out to the general

“It’s a testament to our academics.”

- Joan Mahoney

public and to our alums and our families that we’re a very strong academic school,” said

Hagg.

Ninety-seven percent of O’Gorman’s students take the ACT which is well above the number of students across South Dakota and the nation taking the exam.

“Statistically, the more kids that take the test, the lower you should do, and we’re actually going the other way with it,” said Hagg. “That’s a tremendous score.”

Hagg also said that these high ACT scores are an indication of the type of students the school has as well as the family and education.

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WHITING Continued from page 1

ranging from updating decks to building homes. Impact builders work long days during the week, and sometimes even Saturdays, while also employing a shingling crew.

Whiting attended OGHS and before going to Augustana for college.

“Coming back to O’G as a teacher simply broadened my overall perspective. It is exciting to engage in philosophical discussions with some of the people I looked up to while a student at O’Gorman.”

As a teacher, Whiting strives to challenge students to engage in the material in ways that they are

not used to. He enjoys teaching the social sciences because they allow students to look at learning through less objective lenses.

“I hope such engagement promotes problem solving and analytical thinking,” said Whiting.

In addition to teaching, Whiting is also pursuing a higher degree. He is in the last semester of the Masters in Educational Leadership at the University of Sioux Falls.

While it is difficult for Whiting to predict where he will be in the future, he is positive he will be doing something that involves working with people.

“I have a great passion for people. I thoroughly enjoy working together with individuals to accomplish goals.”

EDUCATION Continued from page 1

their own plan and submit it to be review by an Oversight Board of legislators and the South Dakota Secretary of Education.

This flexibility allows for the schools to focus on local needs while still focusing on teacher

evaluations that will aid student achievement.

South Dakota’s House of Representatives passed the Education Reform and the bill is now being debated and reworked in the State Senate. It must be passed by the Senate in order for Governor Dugaard to sign it into law.

ENROLLMENT Continued from page 1

offer as much tuition assistance as possible to help offset the hardships associated with the economy.”

The Sioux Falls Catholic School System aims “for finances to not be a reason not to come here,” said Groos.

Primarily, class sizes for the high school can be predicted early on, usually in transition times such as from preschool to kindergarten or sixth grade to junior high.

“The past six years, we average gaining around seven students from sixth grade to seventh grade. Transition times are viewed as an opportunity to attract new students and to introduce to them to what the Sioux Falls Catholic School System has to offer,” said Charron.

“Obviously, we hope that we can retain and attract as many students as possible. However, there are situations that might come up which force families to look at all of their options.”

The scholarship and financial aid choices are helping families deal with financial hardship from the hard economy or other sources.

“There are more and more families inquiring about work study as an option,” said Groos.

The steady or increasing number of students can be tied to personal contact with current and prospective students.

“At the junior high level, we contact all of our religious education students and their families who are in the sixth grade and invite them to our various information events. Personal contact is crucial to establishing relationships with prospective families,” said Charron.

“The Parent Advisory Board contacts every eighth grader enrolled in the Junior High to talk about O’Gorman as an option for high school,” said Groos. In addition, the board also thanks all freshman for enrolling in the Junior High.

Reasons Families Have For Sending Children to O’Gorman

1. Desire Catholic Education
2. Curriculum
3. Siblings attend O’Gorman
4. Class Size
5. Other

Class retreats help unify individual grades

Cassie Wilka
Activities Co-Editor

Sharing the light of Jesus Christ with classmates has become a tradition through the class retreats offered by Campus Ministry.

Every year each class has the opportunity to come together as a class and serve the community, themselves, and most importantly God.

"They give students an opportunity to get out of their daily routine," said Campus Minister Mr. Konz.

"It also gives them the opportunity to discover new things about themselves."

There are two Campus Ministry retreats, one held each semester to help plan how they can help other students encounter Christ in their lives at school.

With the guidance of the Campus Ministry Core Team, every student has an equal opportunity to come in contact with their faith by actively participating in class retreats.

"I try to give my own witness and be the best example of Christian adulthood I can be," said Konz.

"Each student is encouraged to reflect, grow, and challenge themselves during these retreats."

A new design for the freshman retreat was tested out this year with great success.

"It challenged them to discover their relationship with God, themselves, and others," said Konz.

The start of high school is a difficult transition for most young people, with the help of the class retreat freshman year will be an easier, less stressful time for students.

Different from last year, the sophomore and junior class retreats will be held on the same day.

Sophomores will be spending their day by serving the community and impacting the world around them.

"I think our class will end up being better off by serving others for a day instead of ourselves," said sophomore Sam Breske.

By breaking off into groups and heading to different work sites, the sophomores will affect many people within one day.

"At the end of the day, hopefully myself and my class realize how blessed we really are," said Breske.

The juniors spend the day of their retreat focusing on relationships in the world around them and how they affect people. The main discussions will reflect upon the relationship between men and women.

"I think our class will benefit from the junior retreat," said junior Austin Pharis.

"It will bring us closer together and help us prepare for our final year together. I'm also excited to get out of school."

The chance to miss an entire day of school without having to make up homework is one of the luxuries seniors do not have.

There are two senior retreats offered each year that only allow



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ABOVE: Seniors Kirsti Skuza, Rachel Lamberty, Julia Nyberg, Kayla Hillberg, Tony Klein and Sam Bell play a rousing game of Catch-Phrase as they enjoy pizza at the Campus Ministry Senior Time Retreat.

RIGHT: Seniors pose for a group picture at the end of the retreat at Holy Spirit on Feb. 8. The Junior retreat, at Broom Tree, and Sophomore retreat, at St. Michael's, are set to take place on April 24.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

about 30 students to participate on a first come, first serve basis.

They focus on making the transition to college.

"Kind of a last hoorah to help make students want to be involved in their faith life throughout their post high school plans," said Konz.

Next year things will be dif-

ferent. All four classes will have one same day that will be dedicated to retreats.

"I think it's a good idea," said senior Kenzie Pistulka. "That way all the seniors have a chance to go on a retreat without having to worry about missing school."

With the new change of having an actual class retreats for the

entire senior class, the seniors will have the chance to bond one last time as a class before heading off to college.

"I would like to change students' attitudes going into their retreat," said Konz.

"Anyone who's ever gone into a retreat with an open mind has never gone away disappointed."

Upcoming Faith Events

- Empty Bowls - March 13
- Feast of St. Joseph - March 19
- Reconciliation - March 28
- All In God's Plan - March 29
- Palm Sunday - April 1
- Holy Thursday - April 5
- Good Friday - April 6
- Easter Sunday - April 8
- Sophomore Retreat - April 24
- Junior Retreat - April 24



Eucharistic miracles of the month reawaken faith, beliefs in Christians

Frankie Maxwell
Entertainment Co-Editor

Eucharist Miracles have been documented for many, many years. These miracles show that the presence of God is really present in the Eucharist.

Most miracles involve the Host transforming into the Body and Blood of Christ.

It can also be the transformation of the wine turning into blood.

These transformations usually occur while the wine and bread are being consecrated.

It also occurred during times of weak-end faith in the presence of God.

These miracles reawaken the faith and beliefs in Catholics.

Although we believe that the bread and wine is turned into the Body and Blood of Christ we usually do not see this transformation.

Many of these miracles occurred long

ago but they are still celebrated and studied today.

The miracle of Ludberg in 1411, a priest doubted the presence of Christ was really present. Immediately after being consecrated the wine turned into the Blood of Christ.

Today the Blood draws many people of faith every year on "Sveta Nedilja" or Holy Sunday. It is celebrated for an entire week.

Another miracle is the miracle of Sienna, Italy.

On Aug. 17, 1730, consecrated Hosts remain perfectly preserved for over 250 years.

Rigorous scientific experiments have not been able to explain this phenomena.

A more recent miracle of Chirattakom on May 5, 2001 a man appeared on the Host, and he had a crown of thorns.

In Amsterdam a miracle occurred when the Eucharist was thrown into the fire and miraculously was unscathed.

In Blanot, France in 1331, a Host fell into a woman's lap after the priest had placed it on her mouth.

The priest went to recover the Host but it wasn't there. Instead there was a bloodstain on the woman's cloth where the Host was.

The miracle Lanciano is a very significant miracle in Church history.

In the 8th century A.D. A priest doubted the presence of God.

However, when he consecrated the Host it transformed into flesh. Not only did the Host turn into flesh but the wine also turned into blood.

The flesh is actually cardiac tissue which contains arterioles, veins, and nerve fibers. It was identified as muscular tissue from the heart.

The wine that was turned into blood is, as in all other approved Eucharistic miracles, type AB.

Indy-bound

Interp, debate squads qualify eight for nationals

Jake Schreck
Entertainment Editor

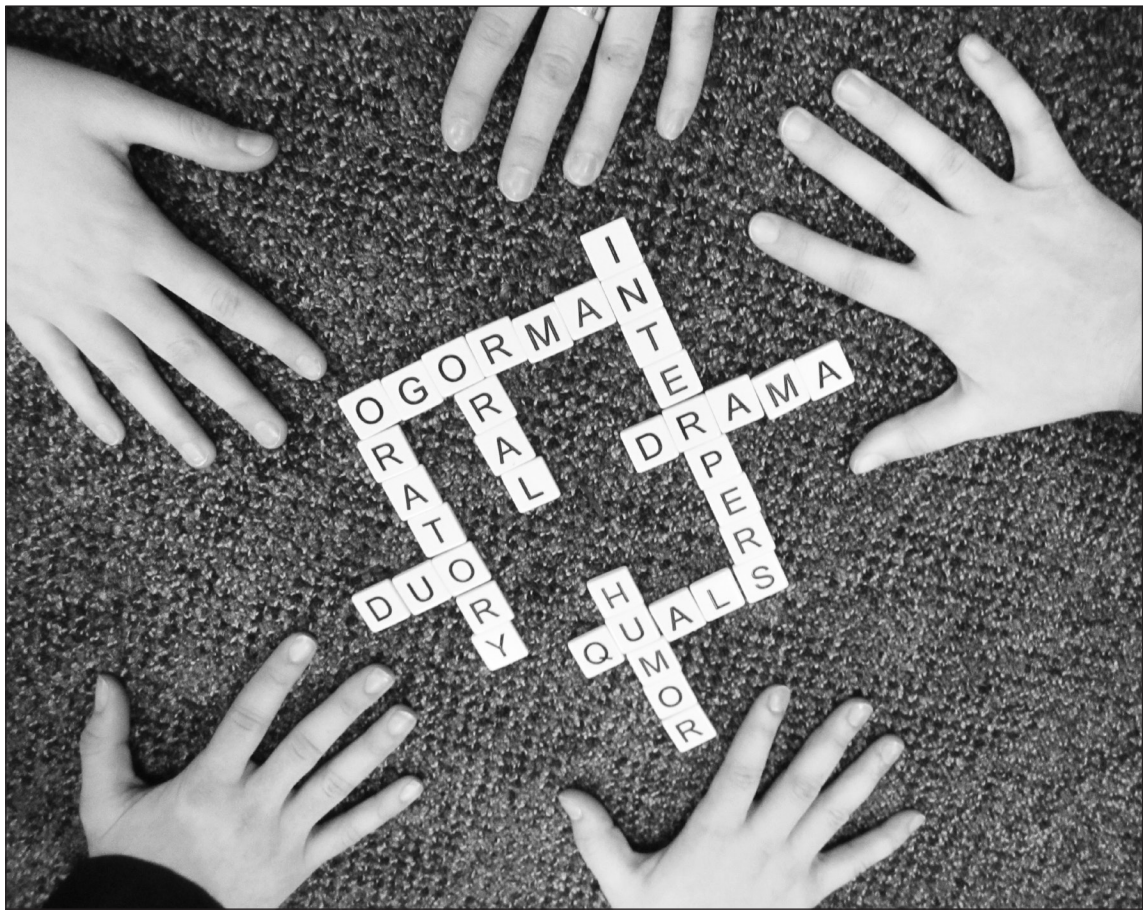
After a gut wrenching two days, eight O’Gorman students walked out of Washington High School as qualifiers for the National Forensics League Tournament in Indianapolis.

“The competition was a little different than years past,” said senior Charlie Solomon. “We were able to have our own homeroom to hang out and relax between rounds. The competition was just as intense as in the past, if not more so. I feel like the team wanted it more this year.”

After having limited success the last two years, the O’Gorman oral interp team broke through in a big way as they managed to qualify two duos, a humor and an oratory.

“It feels great, for sure,” said Solomon. “I’m extremely excited for the opportunity that O’Gorman will have at nationals.”

Bailey Larson, Alex Shields, Chelsey Sehr, Ellen Nelson, Lizzie O’Connell, Michael Payne, Tony Klein, Charlie Solomon, Joey Bezenek, Frankie Maxwell, Genevieve Fuller, Haley Maxwell, Sarah Dougherty and Shelby Bloomer all competed at the Washington qualifiers as representatives of O’Gorman.



“There’s always disappointment that accompanies quals just because I wish everybody could qualify, so it’s bittersweet,” said Solomon. “I’m just really proud of our team and how we did overall.”

The interp qualifiers included: Solomon in Humor; Bloomer

in Original Oratory; the duo of Tony Klein and Michael Payne; and the duo of Frankie Maxwell and Haley Maxwell.

In addition to qualifying in the duo category, Frankie Maxwell placed first in humor, but has elected to participate in duo at nationals.

Along with the interp success, Jason Nerland qualified in domestic extemporaneous speaking while Simon Scholten qualified in international extemporaneous speaking.

“This is a really exciting and great opportunity,” said Nerland. “A personal goal of mine is

to make it past the preliminary round.”

Expectations are running high for the Knights as they look to carry their past national success into Indianapolis.

“It will be an intense competition, but O’Gorman generally has success at the national tournament,” said Solomon.

“Ms. Fester knows how to get the job done. I could easily see both of the duos making semifinals, or even finals. I’ve seen the caliber of the pieces at nationals and both of our duos that are competing have potential to do really well. In addition, Shelby Bloomer is as good of an orator as anybody. Taking first place at the Marshall tournament indicates that she could do very well on the national stage.”

Both Scholten and Nerland have qualified for the national tournament before. Previously, they were in public forum as a pair.

This time the two will be going solo in their national endeavor.

Solomon, too, has been to nationals as he competed last year in duo, where he and graduate Joey Johnson took seventh place.

The national tournament will take place June 10-15.

Club finds learning, fun through studying cultures

Tom Breske
Sports Co-Editor

A South Korean themed afternoon was hosted by the International Club in February, giving students a chance to learn how to properly bow, try a Korean treat and even write their names in Korean.

Moving to another country can be scary. “When I first got here, I didn’t know anyone,” said senior Taeyon Um, originally from South Korea, who has been at O’Gorman for two years. “I was very excited to learn a new culture.”

“It is easy to forget about other cultures,” said International Club vice president Semehar Ghebrekidan. The O’Gorman community is well accustomed to the American way of life. In fact, some of O’Gorman’s students have been in Catholic schools their entire lives.

The International Club adds freshness to O’Gorman. It offers a way to break the

routine and learn something new.

“It was started as a platform for our international students to meet Americans and make friends,” said club director Frau Kuchenbecker. “It is also a way for our students to get a glimpse at another country’s way of life.”

“It was started as a platform for our international students to meet Americans and make friends. It is also a way for our students to get a glimpse at another country’s way of life.”

- Frau Kuchenbecker

International club meets once a month, usually in the G-wing of O’Gorman High School. Each month is a new celebration of a different culture.

“February was Korean month. We have also had Russian style eggs, Day of the Dead and Oktoberfest,” said Kuchen-

becker. “Multicultural trivia gave students a chance to see if they were Smarter Than a 5th Grader in Norway, China, Slovakia, or East Turkestan.”

International club has been celebrating various nationalities for two years. One of the most popular events occurred last year

when a group of high-flying Danish dancers stopped by O’Gorman on their nationwide tour.

“We’ve also had Spanish belly dancers, and even watched *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*,” said Ghebrekidan.

The current leaders of international

club are Lauren Bird and Semehar Ghebrekidan. They plan activities based on holidays like Day of the Dead.

The club also takes input from international students such as Um, who hosted the Korean event.

Mrs. Brose, Mrs. Fauteck and Mrs. Kuchenbecker are the faculty leaders of the International Club. They started the club two years ago as a way to expose O’Gorman students to more cultures. “Our goal is to give students a more diverse view of the world,” said Kuchenbecker.

Next month’s feature country will be Slovakia, hosted by seniors Adam Kianicka and Lucas Lederer. It is one of the many cultures on display throughout the year at international club.

“There is a lot of diversity at O’Gorman,” said Ghebrekidan. “We want people to see that learning about other cultures can be interesting and fun.”

New club encourages creativity in writing

Cassie Wilka
Activities Co-Editor

A new club has pioneered its way into O'Gorman.

The writing club is open to all people with any interest in writing.

Headed by Mrs. Heather Nohrenberg, the club plans to focus on expanding students' experience with writing for enjoyment.

"It will mostly be creative writing," said Nohrenberg. "I would like to present a theme for each meeting. The students in the club have some great ideas, and we will slowly work our way through their list of things to write."

The members will be presented with either a prompt or a picture and encouraged to branch their ideas off of that.

"I really enjoy writing," said freshman Cheyenne Chontos. "I'm big into paranormal and horror writing. I've even written my own short story."

Although each student has their favorite genre of writing, they will be encouraged to try different methods of story writing.

So far the club has seen nothing but success.

With 10 members after only

one meeting, the club expects to grow continuously in popularity.

"It's a really good place to get feedback and get other people's opinions," said senior Kelcie Rushing. "It's very open to everyone."

The writings that will come out of the club will not go to waste.

"We're hoping to meet with the art club and do some children's books," said Chontos. "It would be really cool to see our stories come to life through other students' art."

Many club members have already written short stories and poems in their free time, so they are excited to collaborate with the art club students.

Chontos is the one who thought it would be a good idea to start a writing club.

"I asked some of my friends if they liked the idea," said Chontos. "When I saw that they were all excited about it, I talked to Mrs. Nohrenberg and it just kind of went from there."

Nohrenberg was right on board with the idea of the writing club.

"It will take and improve writing skills," said Nohrenberg. "Any writing scholarships that come across my desk are offered to the club as possible writing



KNIGHT SCROLL

Writing club members Cecily Fogarty and Kelcie Rushing brainstorm ideas for their first projects. They plan on collaborating with the art club to create children's stories from their writing.

tasks."

Along with the opportunities to work on scholarship writing, students will also have experience with many different writing pieces that will help them with future plans. Colleges look to students who take part in clubs,

especially when they apply the skills they have acquired in out of school activities.

The writing club is a place where students can come and experiment with different writing techniques.

"It's a time when you can have

help with your writing when it's not in a classroom setup," said Rushing. "So it's a more enjoyable atmosphere to write in."

The writing club plans on meeting every two weeks.

Upcoming Activities

Senior Open Campus begins ~ March 12

Empty Bowls ~ March 13

Show Choir Competition ~ March 17

All State Band ~ March 22-24

Choir Concert ~ March 27

Close-Up History Meeting ~ March 28

Shamrock Run ~ March 31

Awareness Day ~ April 5

Senior Dinner Dance ~ April 14

CAMPUS VISIT DAYS

March 9 >> April 20
usiouxfalls.edu/admissions

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STUDENTS: 1,488 >> STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO: 15:1
 PLACEMENT RATE: 96% >> STUDENTS RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID: 97%
 MAJORS: 35 >> PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS: 7 >> STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

Knights ready for postseason play

Dusty Haffeman
Staff Writer

With only one obstacle looming in the way of the boys basketball team making another state tournament appearance, the Knights are hungry to make it three straight titles.

Many people have had their expectations exceeded by this year's O'Gorman team after graduating key players from last year.

On the other hand, a lot of people expect this type of play from the Knights.

The Knights most recently took the city and conference title after beating Lincoln on Feb. 14. "Accomplishing this goal felt great," said senior Nick Mimmack.

"Our biggest goal is obviously winning the state tournament, but that cannot be done without these smaller steps first."

Besides the one in-state loss to Brookings, the Knights have played consistent basketball the entire year.

While focusing on tough nosed defense and solid offensive execution, the Knights have definitely made a reputation for themselves.

They look like they will once again be the team to beat come

tournament time.

"Our toughest opponent was either Pierre or Brookings," said Mimmack. "Pierre had some talented players and Brookings obviously beat us."

Another team, who is not on the Knights' schedule this year, which will post a threat, is Mitchell.

"Our biggest goal is obviously winning the state tournament, but that cannot be done without these smaller steps first."

-Nick Mimmack

They returned many key players from last year's state tournament squad and have only lost two games this season, both to Pierre.

One weakness that the Knights could face as the season draws to a close is their lack of depth.

Only seven players usually enter the stat book, so foul trouble could potentially haunt the Knights.

"We do not have the best depth but we have dealt with

that all year," said Mimmack. "Come state tournament time, I do not believe that will be our biggest problem."

With each player accepting their role, the Knights have really learned to play together as a team, especially on the defensive side of the ball.

"Continuing to improve defensively is something that we can always work on and something that we take a lot of pride in," said Mimmack.

"Austin Ridl sets the defensive tone for us by accepting the challenge of guarding the top player from every team we face."

To accompany the stellar defense to this point, the Knights offense has helped surge the Knights to the city and conference titles respectively.

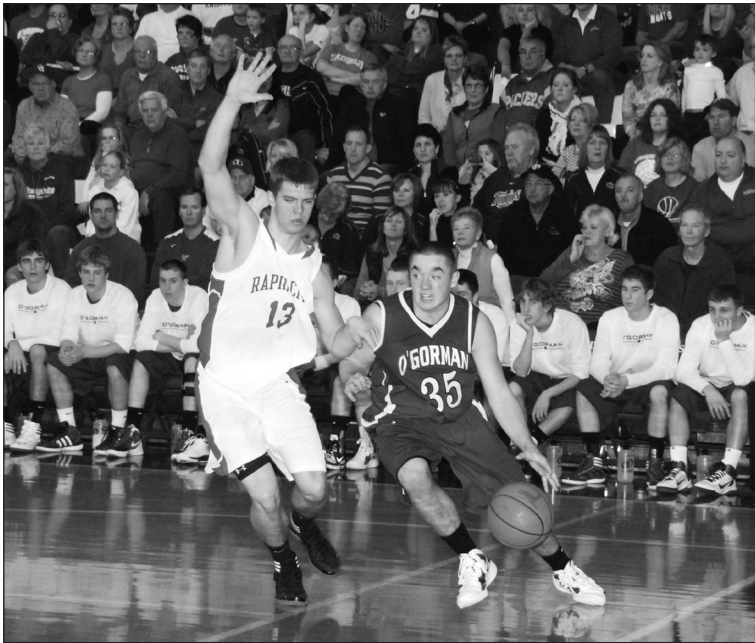
After the loss to Brookings, the Knights reeled off six consecutive wins before losing to Washington.

Four of the final eight games were against city teams, major competition going into the state tournament.

"We know that we have a great shot at the title, but it will not get done without hard work," said Mimmack.

"We have to take it one game at a time and get things done."

The state tournament will be held March 15-17 in Rapid City.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Junior Tyler Pals drives the baseline against Rapid City Central. The Knights finished the season 16-4.

Recent Game Scores

February 3	SF Roosevelt	W	57-45
February 11	Pierre	W	58-45
February 14	SF Lincoln	W	54-52
February 21	SF Washington	L	51-54
February 23	Brandon Valley	W	45-43

Playoff Games

February 28	District 1AA Playoff
March 2	District 1AA Playoff
March 6	Region 1AA Playoff
March 15-17	State AA Tournament

Three wrestlers earn trip to state; eager to pursue victory at tourney

Miranda Masek
Opinion Editor

After a demanding season, state qualifiers Ben Fichter, Conor Tomac, and Jack Schuver are aiming to finish the season strong.

"For me this year went very well," said junior Jack Schuver. "I don't know that I have gone through a more grueling sports season in my life than wrestling this year."

With seven or more practices in a five day period, the season wasn't just tough physically, but mentally, too.

"It wears people down," said Schuver.

The team also had to face personal challenges and injuries on their way to the regional tournament.

"For me personally the most difficult challenge was overcoming my concussion, however, I was cleared just in time to make the last week of practices before the regional tournament," said junior Conor Tomac. "Being



KNIGHT SCROLL

Junior Jack Schuver wrestles in a match against Lincoln in December. Three wrestlers qualified for the state tournament.

cleared wasn't even the hardest part, it was getting back into shape as quick as possible, which took guts, hard work and determination, along with the support and pressure for success from my coaches and the team."

"As a team we had some ups and downs and in the end we all pulled together and finished as best we could," said senior Ben Fichter. "Being one of two

seniors, it was hard to lead the younger guys but they all stepped up to the plate and did the best they could."

Schuver also cites the importance of the many underclassmen wrestlers. "A lot of young guys stepped up and filled their place and I was really proud of the way everybody on our team worked."

"I'm going to miss the team a lot," said Fichter.

National, local programs offer sports scholarships with 2012 signing day

Josh Jorgensen
Sports Co-Editor

As always, last month marked the early February mid-week holiday of the national high school signing day. This year O'Gorman has many athletes signing, some to local schools, and some to big conference schools.

This year's group included athletes from football, soccer, hockey and baseball. This year in soccer there were two signees: Alyssa Brazil to South Dakota State University and Elizabeth Busch to the University of Minnesota Crookston.

"(To get a scholarship) feels awesome. You work your whole life to get it," said Busch.

Football gained the most signees with five, including Adam Juhl, Flynn Donelan, and Sam Wallin staying local going to Augustana College. Wes Bednar is headed to Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minn. Sam Steffl is headed to the Ivy League to attend Brown Uni-

versity and play football.

"(With all the college scholarships) it shows that O'Gorman truly has what it takes to get more players ready to compete at the college level," said Busch.

Also included in the mix was Austin Young to University of Minnesota Duluth for Hockey. Damon Baruth signed with Butler University in El Dorado Kansas and Connor Schaeffbauer with the University of Minnesota both for baseball.

When signing with a program, often times the athlete looks for the best benefits, including playing time and how to further their education in the best way.

Managing sports in college with the homework load would be seemingly the hardest transition to getting used to school.

"We have to do three hours of work study, and we have to work on homework during this time," said Busch. "This is mandatory for all freshman soccer players, so that will help."

Tennis, golf prepare for spring seasons with repeat title hopes

Josh Jorgensen
Sports Co-Editor

With the next edition of Knights sports around the corner, two of the O'Gorman teams go in defending state titles, and all four with high expectations. Track

After losing many top runners, the track team is hoping for high expectations and to have a good showing at the state meet.

"We lost a lot of good runners last year, especially sprinters," said senior Keegan Miles. "We need everyone to step up and work hard this year."

With the season starting toward the end of March, the team has been participating in winter track to get ready.

"It keeps you fit, and your body in shape, the nice weather has helped a ton so we can run more," said Miles.

Baseball

This year's team has many top players returning including two college signees in Connor Schaefer and Damon Baruth.

The team goes to Las Vegas April 11-15 to get an edge on South Dakota league play, with the regular season starting later

that month.
Boys Tennis

In search of the sought after four-peat, the tennis team looks to fill gaps to bring home the title.

"This year is going to come down to a few matches at the state tournament," said senior Anthony Rauschenbach. "If we can pull through in key moments we have a good chance at winning."

The team looks to replace Elliott Czarnecki and Brad Entwistle and also Adam Kianicka because of eligibility. The season begins in late March.

"After graduating Czarnecki and Entwistle, we will lose an important part of our line up, but luckily we have had a lot of depth over the years and with focus we can come out strong," said Rauschenbach

Girls Golf

After winning the state championship, the girls golf team returns much talent.

With their top player, Michaela Kouri, returning the team is looking to expand during the spring months before the state tournament in Sioux Falls at the end of May.

Lady Knights drop Warriors for last regular season win

Lauren Bird
Faith Co-Editor

With a gut-wrenching loss to Brandon valley in the state championship last year, the Lady Knights hope to make a return trip this year to the Frost Arena in Brookings. Ranked third in the district, the girls basketball team is competing for their third straight district championship.

"One of the main goals of this team has been to make the state tournament," said Coach Kent Kolsrud. "As balanced as AA Girls Basketball is this year, if you can make it to Frost Arena many teams will have a shot to win the championship."

Months of running drills and shooting hoops during the regular season will hopefully assist the Lady Knight's battle regional teams.

With the end of the regular season, records are wiped out and every team has a shot at winning the state tournament.

Based on geographical location, O'Gorman has played regional competition Watertown, Brookings and Roosevelt.

"Although we are in a tough district and we're going to have to play really good basketball in



KNIGHT SCROLL

Senior Chandler Neilson dribbles past a Rapid City Central defender. The regular season ended with an upset win over Washington.

order to win, we are capable of making the state tournament if we play well," said Kolsrud. "The girls have steadily improved as the season has gone on."

Such a great feat could only be accomplished with a strong backbone of dedication and heart. "Our record is deceiving, but by the end of the year I believe that everyone will see us as a true threat," said senior Katy Viereck.

"I think the girls on the team have more determination and

spirit than any team I've ever been a part of and I continually see us getting better every day in practice."

This season, the Lady Knights have dipped into the underclassmen talent to recruit some young faces.

"It is challenging to learn all the new things the older girls do but very rewarding to be playing with them," said freshman Dalee Steen. "We are all working very hard and are very determined to get to state this year."

Kouri takes on leadership role; hopes for strong senior season

Frankie Maxwell
Entertainment Co-Editor

This year's golf season is set to begin and senior Michaela Kouri is prepared not only for the season but also for college.

"I'm ready for this year to be done," said Kouri. "I'm thankful I have golf to look forward to."

Starting out the year, Kouri's goals were set toward college.

"I had to find out where I wanted to go to college and how to get in," said Kouri.

Her final decision is to attend SDSU next year and to continue playing golf.

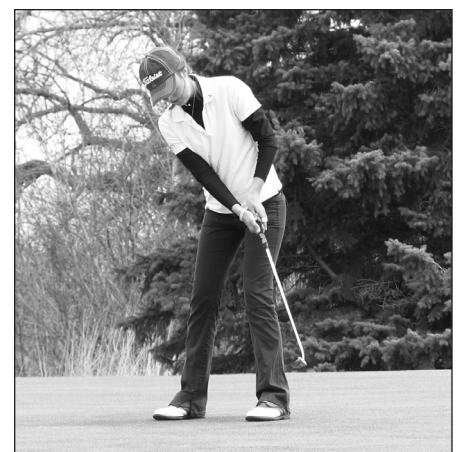
"I chose SDSU because of the scholarships mostly," said Kouri. "I also know a lot of people at the college and the coaches are really great."

One of her goals for college will be to compete at golf tournaments and consistently be successful at the sport.

"I really want to pursue nursing and get accepted to nursing school," said Kouri. "Finding a job after college will also be a main priority of mine."

As for this year's golf season, Kouri is ready to get back out and play.

"I'm excited to finally start playing



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michaela Kouri at the O'Gorman invite on the seventh hole. Kouri will be attending SDSU next fall.

again," said Kouri.

Kouri said that at the beginning of her golf career she focused more on herself individually, but now as a team leader, she strives for team bonding.

"Everyone on the team has become very close," said Kouri.

Having a positive outlook on the season will help them accomplish their main goal, winning the championship.

"It won't be easy but we can do it if we put in the hard work," said Kouri.

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Human Again sends fans on creative journey

Lauren Bird
Faith Co-Editor

Gone are Ingrid Michaelson's quirky ukulele ditties in her much anticipated *Human Again*.

Her fourth album, released on Jan. 24, 2012, narrows in on Michaelson's darker side.

The tracks on *Human Again* were described at a press release as, "darker, impassioned songs" that "throw a wrench in Michaelson's reputation as the crafter of dainty love songs."

A Slaten Island native, Michaelson climbed the superstar ladder by having her first few songs played on commercials and network television shows, such as Grey's Anatomy and One Tree Hill.

In her new album, Michaelson switches up her producer, background music, and cutesy lyric material for a blunt, harsher approach.

Produced by David Kahne, the same producer who established Regina Spektor and Paul Mc-

Cartney, Michaelson's traditionally solo work has been given a touch of production magic and a string section.

Though this takes away from Michaelson's intimate touch, the sound of strings on tracks, such as "Blood Brothers," gives her album a haunting feeling.

For fans who prefer her solo work, Michaelson sings "How we Love" alone with her acoustic guitar on this new album.

The first track of the album, "This is War," features the depressing lyrics, "It's a wonder at all that I'm alive."

Like the majority of the songs on this album, "This is War," focuses on the darker side of a romantic breakup.

Peeling off her joyful mask, Michaelson croons about a dark time in her life.

"The album is called *Human Again* because it's taken me a very long time to be happy," explains Michaelson in a release.

"The music on this album

might surprise some people."

One aspect that Michaelson has not altered is her ability to illustrate a metaphor.

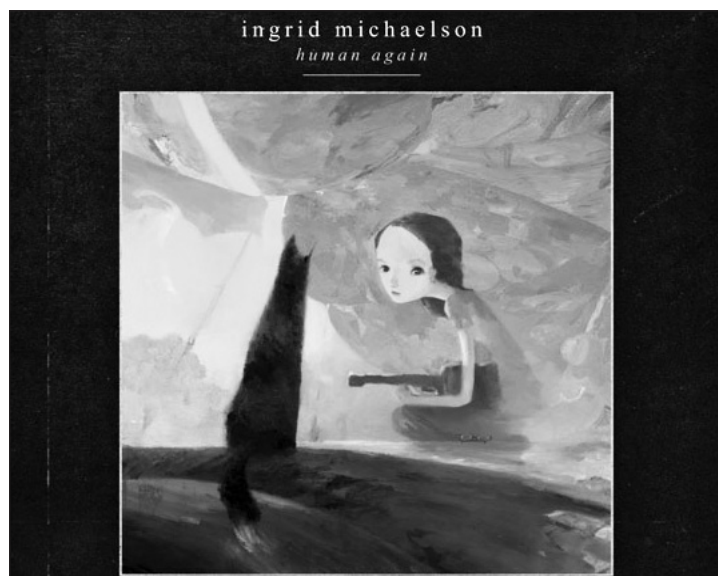
Many tracks, such as "In the Sea", "Fire", and "Ghost," are addressed to an ex-lover and revolve around deathly situations, such as falling, drowning, burning and being a ghost.

The album's lead single, "Ghost," in which the narrator is a ghost addressing another ghost lover, has gained some publicity. In her haunting, black and white music video, Michaelson scrawls lyrics, such as, "I'm an invisible disaster."

I keep trying to walk but my feet don't find the solid ground," all over her body.

Through the darkness that is *Human Again*, a few uplifting songs survive. "Keep Warm" and bonus track "Always You" are both romantic songs with an optimistic outlook.

Though *Human Again* is more about polish and less about a per-



PRESS PHOTO / CABIN 24 RECORDS

Ingrid Michaelson's new record is sure to be a hit with the fans. The key tracks are "Fire," "This is War," "Ribbons"

sonal touch, Michaelson manages to pump out a solid album with deep lyrics and beautiful musical accompaniments.

This mature take on Michaelson's career is a suiting change for the mature themes featured in

her lyrics.

This chart-topping record will pull at fans' heartstrings as well as establish Michaelson's dark, new maturity.

Noteworthy Tracks: "Ribbons," "This is War," and "Fire."

Moviegoers find adventure with new, old films in 3-D

Cassie Wilka
Activities Co-Editor

Recently, a new trend of movie watching has become increasingly popular.

3-D movies have taken over cinemas all over the world.

It is rare to find a movie that does not have the option of watching it in the 3-D effect.

Movies ranging from *Avatar* to Martin Scorsese's Oscar nominated picture, *Hugo*, have all been released in 3-D and have been widely popular among moviegoers.

"They are entertaining," said senior Christina Brennan. "They make you feel like if you are in the movie."

The special effects that are emphasized during 3-D movies are what make them so interesting to audiences.

"It's cool because all you have to do is wear a pair of plastic glasses and the entire story comes to life in a bigger way," said Brennan.

It seems as though 3-D movies have both admirers and haters.

"They give me headaches," said senior Charlie Solomon. "I hate how when you take off the glasses it doesn't look like anything and they are way too ex-



PRESS PHOTO / LUCASFILMS

Liam Neeson plays Qui Gon Jinn in the film *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*. Many studios are re-releasing popular movies in 3-D.

pensive."

The cost of 3-D movies is in fact a lot more expensive than 2-D movies.

The moviegoers have to pay a fee for the plastic glasses even though most theaters encourage them to recycle the glasses directly after the movie.

"3-D movies are not worth their money," said senior Laura Rezac. "Usually they don't even have the thrill factor of items jumping out at you as they promise but are the same effects as 2-D."

Another trend that is emerging from 3-D film making is the

re-releasing of popular 2-D films into 3-D films.

James Cameron's *Titanic* is set to be released in 3-D in early April commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking.

Disney is also slowly releasing each classic movie in 3-D, which seems to be a favorite among all age groups.

"I'm excited to see *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* in 3-D even though I'd rather just see it 2-D," said Solomon. "I guess I would have liked to see *Lion King* 3-D because it brings to life fond memories of my childhood."

Sioux Falls welcomes Kelly Clarkson to stage; adoring fans enthusiastic

Veronica Fritsch
Faith Co-Editor

Sioux Falls will finally get an A-List concert this year. Kelly Clarkson will perform at the Sioux Falls Arena on Monday, March 12 as a stop on her 'Stronger' tour.

Kelly Clarkson is the season one winner of *American Idol* in 2002. She has become the second all-time best selling artist to come from *American Idol*.

She has released four albums released to date: *Thankful*, *Breakaway*, *My December*, *All I Ever Wanted* and her upcoming album, *Stronger*.

Clarkson has had three number one singles, including "A Moment Like This", "My Life Would Suck Without You", and "Stronger".

The North American leg of the Stronger tour includes 24 stops across the country running from Jan. 13 to April 10.

Opening up for Clarkson is Matt Nathanson.

Nathanson is an American singer-songwriter whose work is a blend of folk and rock music. He is best known for his platinum selling song "Come on Get Higher".



PRESS PHOTO

Kelly Clarkson is set to perform at the Sioux Falls Arena on March 22 on her 'Stronger' tour.

Fans across the city are getting excited that such a high caliber talent will be coming to this small of a venue in comparison to the rest of the tour stops.

"Kelly Clarkson is one of my all-time favorite artists. It is so exciting that she is coming to Sioux Falls because I have been listening to her music for ten years. I love her," said senior Elizabeth Daniel.

Tickets for this event can be purchased online through Ticketmaster or through the arena box office.



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Have a very lucky March!



Kelcie Rushing
Guest Cartoonist

Sioux Falls eateries serve up food, fun for March Madness

T.C. Referees: The prices aren't too high, and there is always enough food on the plate. Chicken fingers is what TC's does! They make one great Shirley Temple, and it would be a great place for you and all of your friends to watch the Final Four!

HuHot: This make it yourself buffet ensures that one never truly has the same meal twice. The various TVs set up typically remain on sports channels. The great Mongolian food with a splash of sports practically guarantees everyone to have a thoroughly enjoyable meal while still keeping up with March Madness.

Qdoba: It is a favorite amongst high school students from all around Sioux Falls, and it is easy to see why. If you have never been here before, try the ancho chicken burrito or the queso burrito. One bite and you will be hooked. There is no better way to spend the final four than with your friends and a few plates of Qdoba nachos.

Nick's Gyros: Being a lover of Greek food, you might find this



MIRANDA MASEK / KNIGHT SCROLL

Located on W. 41st Street, Nick's Gyros offers Greek food. This local restaurant is one of many with fun foods perfect for March Madness.

to be the best Greek food in town that won't burn a hole in your pocket. The Gyros are what to order on the menu. Don't bother asking to take anything off of the Gyro because you won't be disappointed.

Buffalo Wild Wings: What's better than enjoying some wings while watching college bas-

ketball? Enjoying wings while watching the Cowboys play football, of course! But really, Bdubs has lots of great deals and provides an atmosphere where you can relax, catch various games on the myriad televisions and devour plate after plate of wings.

Education Reform Bill good plan for South Dakota's school system

Ellen Nelson
Editor-in-Chief

Change to the state's educational system always comes with caution and concern. The bill currently facing the state legislature is no different.

A major concern with Governor Dennis Daugaard's Education Reform Bill is that it will eliminate tenure. Educators have been said that this will greatly impact job security and work as a deterrent to future teachers.

Individuals against this bill also worry that once teachers are hired, they will be more concerned about keeping their job than actually teaching. Others have also claimed that this incentive pay does little to boost student achievements.

However, these claims are inadequate. By eliminating continuing contracts, or tenure, teachers in the public school system are held to a higher degree. The governor's bill makes it easier for a school to monitor teachers and to uphold the standard of these educators.

Because of tenure, administrators are unable to replace a teacher that is ineffective. This works as motivation for teachers to work harder in reaching out

and truly helping the students to understand and succeed.

Furthermore, the \$8,000 bonus included in the Education Reform Bill acts as a reimbursement for college tuition once hired. This is an incentive to college students considering a teaching career in the fields of

"My plan does not intend to rank teachers or claim that one subject area is more important than another. It recognizes a supply problem and it attempts a market-based solution."

- Gov. Daugaard

math and science.

Daugaard said it best himself: "My plan does not intend to rank teachers or claim that one subject area is more important than another. It recognizes a supply problem and it attempts a market-based solution."

South Dakota needs more math and science teachers. According to the governor's State of

the State address, the state universities "graduated only 24 math teachers, 13 biology teachers, and just two chemistry teachers" in the graduating classes in the 2009-2010 school year.

However, math and science teachers are not the only teachers that should have the opportunity to benefit from this initiative.

As tenure will gradually be eliminated for all teachers, all teachers should be able to earn the \$8,000.

Educators teaching English and the social sciences should be included as well. Otherwise, Governor Daugaard's Education Reform Bill could deter students from entering careers in English and history.

Since South Dakota's Senate is still reworking the Education Reform Bill, the full extent of what the bill will entail is yet to be known.

What is known is the need for teachers. Considering the number of public (and private) schools in South Dakota, and the general increase in enrollment many schools are seeing, more teachers are essential for student achievement.

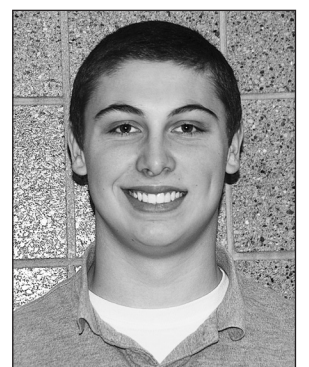
And Governor Daugaard's Education Reform Bill is the incentive needed.

Photo Survey

If you could be a character in any movie, who would it be?



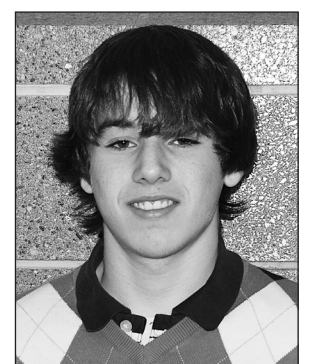
"The girl in Dear John because Channing Tatum is a hunk."



"Ron Burgundy. It's the hair."



"Belle because she lives in a castle and wears dresses all the time."



"Batman. He's sneaky."

2009 grad shares memories of construction

Jenna King
Guest Writer

I can say that I am one of the lucky students to have gotten to experience the old and new O'Gorman High School.

I have had the privilege of watching our beloved school transform from old yellow and pink tiles to fake hallways to a beautiful school that can showcase every aspect of O'Gorman, and I have loved every second of it.

Going to school during the renovation was fun! We had jackhammers going off during tests, and we had to take longer pathways to class because our school was constantly changing. We used to laugh because we could never staple anything into the fake hallway walls. But they were

coming down so we could never understand why not!

Overcoming not being able to concentrate through a test because of construction was a learning experience though and it brought our school together because we all went through it together. Teachers were really understanding about it all though.

The best days were when you could wear any coat or jacket you wanted because it was so chilly in school. It was just like a dress down day but much warmer! It has been really cool to see how far the school has come.

I had already graduated before the school was finished, but being able to experience the transformation of the

school was incredible.

There has been so much effort put into updating a school that we all love from adding the two levels and the PAC and so many more classrooms! The school looks so different now. It is such a classy and well-put together building.

With all the changes at O'Gorman, I am glad that there is still some of the old OG left in there. I personally spent a lot of time in the lower part of the older school, and it still makes me smile when I walk into O'Gorman and I can see the lunch tables, the choir room and the old composites and the gym.

So many memories are packed

into this school, and I am thankful for them. I think many other people are, too. It brings back a lot of memories for every alum, which is appreciated.

There was something about the old O'Gorman that made people want to be there. I remember just walking those halls and you could feel how loved it was. So warm and inviting.

This feeling has transferred into the new O'Gorman as well. With such an open floor plan and most of the faces of OG staying the same helps that contagiously happy feeling.

O'Gorman is not just a building - it never has been. O'Gorman

is a community, and the staff who were there helped make OG feel like home for so many, and that has not changed.

So maybe the ceiling doesn't leak anymore in Mr. Gordon's class or the temperature doesn't change seasons whenever you walk into different classrooms, but the spirit of O'Gorman I feel has never changed and never will.

Jenna King is a 2009 O'Gorman graduate. She is a junior at the University of South Dakota where she studies psychology with an emphasis on drug and alcohol abuse.



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